

Senate Resolution 14

By: Senator Heath of the 31st

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 17, 2013, "Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the Capitol"; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the most geographically and biologically diverse areas in the
4 nation, with abundant plant and animal populations that provide its citizens with unrivaled
5 opportunities for recreation and commerce while also sustaining a quality of life that makes
6 this state a great place to live and work; and

7 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia is a particularly unique part of this diverse state, with a
8 half-million acres of estuaries, 3,000 miles of tidal waterways, a chain of 14 barrier islands,
9 and 300 square miles of open Atlantic Ocean; and

10 WHEREAS, Coastal Georgia produces fresh seafood, including shrimp, blue crabs, fish, and
11 oysters, that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike while also providing an estimated
12 \$45 million of economic impact; and

13 WHEREAS, each year, over 1 million Georgia residents enjoy hunting and fishing from the
14 Blue Ridge Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; and

15 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing, both freshwater and saltwater, generate \$198 million in
16 state and local tax revenue annually, directly supports 31,000 jobs in Georgia, and has a total
17 economic impact of over \$3 billion annually; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia ranks first in the nation as a hunting destination thanks to its abundant
19 wildlife populations and accessible wildlife habitat; and

20 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees are the primary funding source for operating
21 more than 1 million acres of wildlife management areas in Georgia, which provide a myriad
22 recreational and educational opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, hunting and fishing license fees along with excise taxes paid on hunting and
24 fishing equipment have funded the successful restoration of numerous wildlife and fish
25 species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, black bear, wood ducks, brook trout, and
26 red drum; and

27 WHEREAS, the sportsmen and sportswomen of Georgia and the conservation organizations
28 they support through donations and volunteerism work to preserve our state's natural lands
29 and wildlife, which includes nongame as well as game animals.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
31 hereby recognize January 17, 2013, as "Sportsmen's and Coastal Day at the Capitol."

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Legislative Sportsmen's
34 Caucus.